



Wing Conference Review

20-22 April 2001

54th Annual Minnesota Wing Conference
Breezy Point Resort, Breezy Point, MN



Minnesota Wing held its 54th Annual Wing Conference from 20-22 April at the Breezy Point Resort. This was the first time the wing met at this beautiful resort.

Members enjoyed the beautiful, rustic surroundings and the outstanding service that the resort provided. Minnesota wing will be conducting the next two wing conferences at Breezy Point.

The annual conference brings together members from all of the units in the Wing in a business and social setting. Over 300 cadets and senior members were in attendance and came away with new experiences and hopefully new and renewed friendships.



Capt John Barsness and Lt Col Diane Oliver assist with Conference registration.

Members started coming together Friday night and were met by Major Victoria Rock and her Registration Team. They started in the late afternoon and through the early evening. The team was able to make sure that each member who registered had everything they needed for a great experience.

As registration was going on, Lt Col Dick Kirchner and his team set up the command post and dealt with any situation as it arose. They worked closely with Lt Col Anna Marie Bistodeau, the Sergeant of Arms, and her team in providing a smooth and worry-free conference.



1st Lt Gentry Stanley and son at the CAP Bookstore.

The Civil Air Patrol Bookstore once again made a stop at the Wing Conference. Uniforms, insignia, books, memorabilia, you name it, they had it. Rita and Barry Labarre once again did a great job of running the store and answering any questions that members had about the merchandise.

Friday night the cadets and senior members had the chance to renew old acquaintances and make new friends during the respective hospitality times.

A new addition to the Friday Night schedule was the Cadet Advisory Council Meeting.

Again this year, Lt. Col. Bruce Sexton conducted a Bloodborne Pathogen Seminar.



Brig Gen Bobick speaks to the Cadet Advisory Council.

CAC Chair C/Maj Emily Hellmuth called the meeting to order. Brig Gen James Bobick, CAP National Commander, joined them. He gave a really motivating talk about the impact that the National and wing CAC's has had on the Cadet

Program. He also talked about coming changes to the cadet program.



2002 Cadet Advisory Council Officers

The CAC discussed several proposals and elected new officers for the coming term. These are C/Capt Jack Houck as Chair, C/1st Lt Caralyn Flack the Vice Chair, and C/2nd Lt Kathryn Kenning, Recorder.

Saturday's program started with a continental breakfast followed by the General Assembly.



Minnesota Wing Color Guard Presents the Colors.

The North Hennepin Squadron Color Guard presented the colors to the assembled members and the morning's program began with Master of Ceremonies, Col Kevin Sliwinski, DCS Training, introduced Wing Vice-Commander, Lt Col David Skaar, who led the assembled members in the national anthem. Chaplain Boyer gave the Invocation. Lt. Col. Skaar called roll call by having each group commander introducing their Squadron commanders to the assembled members. After the roll call the unit commanders were recognized with

a round of applause for their hard work and dedication to their units.



Col Dale Hoiium welcomes participants to the conference.

Col Dale Hoiium, Minnesota Wing Commander, welcomed everyone to the conference and welcomed the distinguished guests.

Mr. Ray Rought of the Minnesota Department of Transportation, Office of Aeronautics was scheduled to join us but was unable to due to the current emergency flooding. Col Sliwinski read his remarks. Mr. Rought, on behalf of the Division of Aeronautics continues to be a big supporter and friend to the wing.



Brig Gen James Bobick, CAP National Commander

Brig Gen James Bobick was welcomed to the conference and gave his keynote speech. The General talked about the changes in the CAP national structure, the statement of work and new relationship with our Air Force partners and

Col John Rooney, the North Central Region Director of Operations spoke on behalf of the Region Commander, who could not attend, and described the national Operations Database.

Col Gerald Quilling, Wing Safety Officer, spoke about the importance of CAP Safety Programs and insuring that we continue to maintain a safe environment. He also promoted the upcoming series of Flight Clinics to be held all over the state this summer.



Lt Col Tanoff presents the Torch award to Major Todd Mandel for his work in mentoring C/Major Emily Hellmuth.

Lt Col Gregg Tanoff, the North Central Liaison Region Commander, is responsible for the Air Force oversight of all CAP units in the North Central Region. He spoke about his experiences with Civil Air Patrol and his career including serving as Assistant Professor in the Department of Behavioral Sciences and Leadership at the US Air Force Academy. He introduced some of the Liaison Region staff and Air Force Reserve Assistance Personnel present including Major Joel Dale, the MN Wing CAP-RAP Coordinator.



Col Hoium presents Commander's Commendation Awards to C/Col Chet Wilberg and Capt Greg Blakely for their work on the Wing Website.

Col Hoium presented Commander's Commendation Awards to Capt Greg Blakely and C/Col Chet Wilberg. Capt Blakely and C/Col Wilberg, both members of Wing Headquarters, were decorated for their work on the development of the Minnesota Wing Website and associated on-line functions that allow the wing to serve members better.



Brig Gen Bobick presents a Commander's Commendation Award to Col Kevin Sliwinski for his work as the 2001 NCASE Host Wing Project Officer.

Col Kevin Sliwinski received a Commander's Commendation Award from Brig Gen Bobick. Col Sliwinski was the project officer for Minnesota Wing's support of the 2001 National Congress on Aerospace Education. This year the congress was held in Minneapolis. Col Sliwinski coordinated all of the support that the wing provided to this event. Mr. Dennis Yeager, NCR Director of Aerospace Education, assisted with this presentation.

The members split into Senior Member and Cadet Educational meetings after a brief break.

During the Cadet Meeting led by Cadet Programs Director Chaplain (Lt Col) Don Mikitta, cadets were told about the special activities available to them this summer. These included Encampment, Minnesota Leadership Academy and National Special Activities.

At the Senior Education Seminar, Jeff Knutson of Cirrus Aircraft Company, spoke about the excitement of producing this new aircraft.

After lunch Lt Col John Quilling, DCS Mission Operations, led the recognition program.

The first awards presented were the NCR Winners of the Frank G. Brewer Aerospace Education Awards. General Bobick, Col Hoium and Col Rooney made the presentations. The recipients were:

Cadet Award:



C/Major Neil Mehrotra, North Hennepin Squadron.

Senior Award:



Capt Tom Pfingsten, Crow Wing Squadron

Individual & Organization:



Mr. Jody Crowe of Nay Ah Shing School

During this program Col Hoium presented Specialty Awards to members for outstanding achievement in various CAP specialties as indicated.

Cadet Programs:

1st Lt Colleen Rivard of St Croix Squadron

Chaplain:

Ch, (Lt Col) Thomas Boyer of Wing Headquarters

Communications:

Capt William Hewitt of Owatonna Squadron

Emergency Services:

Major James Rutten of St Croix Squadron

Historian:

Major Andrew Browning of Red Wing Squadron

Moral Leadership:

Lt Col Robert Juroszek of Anoka Squadron

Operations:

Major Thomas Vashro of Viking Squadron

Public Affairs:

1st Lt Deborah Feil of St Croix Squadron



Lt Col Don Mikitta showcases Cadet Programs Information at the Specialty Fair.

The Specialty Fair is the gathering of all Wing Staff experts and members to find out what is new in each of the specialty areas. Serious business was conducted such as reviews of Logistics files, issuing Communications directories, being updated with a new Form 108 reimbursement booklet,

Counterdrug procedures, and learning about Air Force ROTC training opportunities.



Lt Col Keith Flanagan and Lt Col Tom Woods present a copy of "Solo Challenge" to Brig Gen Bobick.

During the Speciality Fair, Lt. Col. Tom Woods and Lt Col Keith Flanagan showed their "Solo Challenge" Video to members in a theatre setting and presented a copy of the tape to Brig Gen Bobick.

Cadets were in training that was specific to their cadet grades that was organized by Major Vicki Eckhoff.

Cadet Airmen learned how to prepare for encampment, Emergency Services and Aerospace Education.

Cadet NCO's learned how to lead, become an ES Team member, perform physical fitness, and aerospace education.

Cadet Officers learned about professional competencies, such as setting and achieving objectives and physical fitness.

Senior Cadet Officers (C/Capt and above) were in a seminar about issues of concern to senior cadet leaders.

All cadets were invited to attend the Specialty Fair after their training. Once the Speciality Fair closed members attended the Interdenominational Service and got ready for the Banquet and Recognition Program.

After the Banquet Social and Banquet, more recognition was made of our outstanding members.



The Wing Honor Guard performs after dinner.

The Wing Honor Guard treated us to a performance. Under the command of C/1st Lt Josh Gulbranson, they gave a performance that will be remembered by all for many years to come.

Major Steve Miller, DCS Mission Support, called the recognition program to order.

It began with Col Hoium presenting the Grover Loening Aerospace Award to 1st Lt Marcel Derosier of North Hennepin Squadron for completion of Level III of the Senior Member Training Program.



C/Lt Col Matthew Heffron receives the Eaker Award from Col Hoium.

C/Lt Col Matthew Heffron of Crow Wing Squadron received the General Ira C. Eaker Award for completing Phase 4 of the Cadet Program.



Capt Jim McTie receives the Spaatz Award from General Bobick and Col Hoium.

Capt James McTie of Anoka Squadron received the General Carl A. Spaatz Award from General Bobick. This award signified completion of the CAP Cadet Program.

Next came the Coffin Memorial Award. This was presented to 2nd Lt Al Pabon of Wing Headquarters for his contributions to the Cadet Program. He makes use of evolving technology to help publicize the Cadet Program.



Ch, Major Don Harrup receiving the Sindlear Award.

The Sindlear Award was presented to Chaplain (Maj) Donald Harrup of Crow Wing Squadron for his hard work in assisting members of his unit complete documentation and training requirements for promotion and advancement.

Capt Michael Hartell was recognized as Wing Staff Member of the Year for his outstanding contributions as Wing Standardization and Evaluation Officer and his hard work as Commander of the Cadet Flight Encampment. Capt Hartell was also instrumental in the sale of the Wing Headquarters building.

Capt Carol Christensen of St. Croix Squadron was presented with the Dunbar Memorial Award for her development of individual enthusiasm and participation in the Wing's Communications Program.

The Boynton Family (Captain's James and Mary) of Duluth Squadron was recognized as the Family of the Year.



Cadet Sarah Westphall receives the Cadet NCO of the Year Award.

Cadet Sarah Westphall of Red Wing Composite Squadron was presented with the Cadet NCO of the Year Award.



1st Lt Nathan Case receives the Cadet Commander of the Year Award.

1st Lt Nathan Case of Anoka Squadron received the Cadet Commander of the Year Award.



C/Major Emily Hellmuth receives the Cadet of the Year Award.

Cadet Major Emily Hellmuth of Red Wing Composite Squadron was announced as the Cadet of the Year and was presented with the Commander's Commendation Award.



Col Hoium presents the Senior Member of the Year Award to Capt Douglas Kilian.

Senior Member of the Year honors and a Commander's Commendation Award were presented to Capt Doug Kilian of Viking Composite Squadron.

The Unit of the Year Award went to Viking Composite Squadron. They received the Unit Citation Award and Squadron of Merit from National Headquarters. Their Commander, Capt Shannon Bauer was presented with a Commander's Commendation Award as Squadron Commander of the year.



C/1st Lt Tim Merhar, Viking Cadet CC, General Bobick, Capt Shannon Bauer, Viking Squadron Commander, Col Dale Hoium and Major Tom Kettell, Group 3 Commander.



Lt Col Roger Brogren after receiving the Exceptional Service Award from Brig Gen Bobick and Col Hoium.

Lt Col Roger Brogren of St Croix Squadron was decorated with the Exceptional Service Award in recognition of his efforts with the Minnesota Wing Glider Program.

General Bobick presented National Commanders Medallions to Major Kirby Bauer, USAFR of Viking Squadron, 2nd Lt Carol Sand of Valley Squadron and Chaplain (Major) Donald Harrup of Crow Wing Squadron. This is a recent tradition. The National Commander presents medallions to members selected for individual excellence and achievement at the unit level.



Major Kirby Bauer, USAFR receives a Commander's Medallion from General Bobick.



1st Lt Carol Sand of Valley Squadron receives a Commander's Medallion from General Bobick.



Brig Gen Bobick presents a Commander's Medallion to Chaplain (Major) Don Harrup.

After the Banquet the Military Ball began. This is always one of the most popular events of the Conference. Maj Vicki Eckhoff and a committee of Cadets organized it. The Ball gives members the chance to have fun and "let their hair down." The

cadets and seniors danced the night away to popular music.

Sunday Morning, as most members were going home, Squadron Commanders or their deputies attended Commander's Call. The Minnesota Wing Cadet Competition Team held a practice.

The Wing Conference Team Leaders composed of Col Dennis Rock, Plans & Programs Officer. Col Lorraine Timmerman and Lt. Col. Diane Oliver, Awards Team. Lt Col Anne-Marie Bistodeau, Sergeant At Arms Team. Lt Col Richard Kirchner and Maj. James Rutten, Command Post Team. Maj. Victoria Rock, Registration Team. Maj. Victoria Eckhoff, Cadet Team. 1st Lt Barbara Kasper, Protocol Team. 1st Lt Al Pabon, Public Affairs Team, conduct a de-briefing.

Capt Shannon Bauer conducted a daylong Mission Information Officer seminar for interested members.

Members left the conference with a new look at CAP programs and hopefully made a few new friends and renewed old friendships.

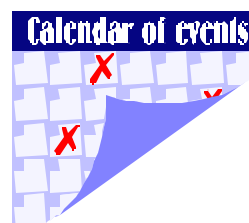
More pictures from the conference (over 100 of them) are on the Minnesota Wing Plans and Programs Website www.mnwg.cap.gov/xp

We look forward to seeing you next year at Breezy Point.



**Members of Viking Squadron
2001 Minnesota Wing Squadron of the Year**

Mark your Calenadars now!!!!



**2001 Minnesota
Wing Conference
2-4 May 2001
Breezy Point Resort**